

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 5, 8, 10, and 19-20 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, and 11-18 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8, 10, 14, and 20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as claims 2-4 and 6-7 depending from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9, as well as claims 11-14 depending from claim 9, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15, as well as claims 16-18 depending from claim 15, are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003370 to Schenk (hereinafter "Schenk") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,631,423 to Brown (hereinafter "Brown"). Claims 9 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schenk in view of Brown and further in view

of U.S. Patent No. 6,557,167 to Thelen (hereinafter "Thelen"). Claims 15, 17, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schenk in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,805,173 to Glennon (hereinafter "Glennon"). Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schenk in view of Glennon and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0232648 to Prindle (hereinafter "Prindle"). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schenk in view of Glennon and further in view of Brown.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 8. Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 10. Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 20. Claims 8, 10, and 19-20 have been canceled without prejudice. These amendments and cancellations have been made to expedite issuance of the allowable claims in the present application. These amendments and cancellations are not intended to be, and are not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, 11-13, and 15-19.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, and 11-18 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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